

Introducing the **EQUITABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT**

More than \$200 million over three years to help California local governments, qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, and Tribes address impaired and underutilized properties in our most vulnerable communities and return them to productive and beneficial use.



Proudly administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substance Control's Office of Brownfields

OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS
Department of Toxic Substances Control • Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative

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WELCOME!



Dr. Meredith Williams
Director
*Department of
Toxic Substances Control*

For far too long, we have struggled to make a dent in environmental burdens borne by communities who have the misfortune to experience the intersection of poverty and pollution. Now, with Governor Newsom's leadership and the passage of Senate Bill 158, we will have resources to aggressively tackle these equity issues in vulnerable communities that pay a heavy price for shouldering unfair amounts of toxic chemicals and pollution.

SB 158 restructures and increases fees related to the handling of hazardous substances and hazardous waste and invests \$500 million to accelerate the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties in disadvantaged neighborhoods. The Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) program will be the vehicle for seeding this vital revitalization effort.

In essence, this grant is a call to action to our nonprofit, municipal and Tribe partners to join us in creating safe spaces in our vulnerable communities by recycling land and returning them to beneficial uses for the people who live, work, learn and play there.

We'll help with the cleanup, and we ask you to use the ECRG to facilitate the buildup.

My name is Dr. Meredith Williams, and I **EnCouRaGe** you to apply!

We **EnCouRaGe** environmental cleanup. We **EnCouRaGe** you to apply.



1.0 Why This Grant Program Was Created

Communities throughout California are burdened by idled lands that may be contaminated and are expensive to investigate, cleanup and reuse. Recognizing the potential to reuse these properties for recreation (parklands, green spaces), commercial enterprises and housing, California has allocated **more than \$200 million in grant funds over three years** for local governments, qualified 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations and Tribes for inventory, investigation, and cleanup activities. This unprecedented investment will create healthier, more economically viable and inclusive communities.

SB 158 (Chapter 73, Statutes of 2021) provides DTSC with funding for the program over three years. DTSC estimates it will allocate \$70.5 million for this fiscal year and \$100 million for each of the next two fiscal years. The exact allocations each year are subject to change at DTSC's discretion.





ECRG: ADDRESSING AN URGENT NEED IN CALIFORNIA

In 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI), allocating \$500 million to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of contaminated properties, with priority given to properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) **Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG)** will provide more than \$200 million in grants to applicants through a competitive process, an unprecedented opportunity to combine public and private resources to address persistent environmental injustices and set a new path for land use that will have immediate and lasting benefits.

► **The program is funded over three years, but the need is urgent. It's time to act. Don't delay — We EnCouRaGe you to apply today!**

DTSC's Office of Brownfields is pleased to make resources and information available to help guide applicants at every step of the process.

The funding is available to help local governments, qualified nonprofits and Tribes to conduct:

- **Community-Wide Assessments (CWA)** to obtain information about environmental conditions at four or more sites within a study area. Recipients of CWA grants may use the funds for preliminary environmental and land use planning, including All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, as well as for public engagement activities meant to elicit dialogue about local brownfields priorities.

Grant range: \$80,000 to \$300,000

- **Site-specific Environmental Investigations** or cleanup planning at a specific site that is slated for reuse. Work includes All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA), Supplemental Site Investigations (SSI) or equivalent environmental investigations, Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), and Pilot tests to evaluate cleanup alternatives.

Grant range: \$80,000 to \$3 million

- **Site-specific Environmental Cleanups.** This includes planning, implementation and reporting costs as well as those associated with the purchase of insurance required to carry out the environmental activities, such as pollution legal liability.

Grant range: \$80,000 to \$7 million

We **EnCouRaGe** environmental cleanup. We **EnCouRaGe** you to apply.



ECRG will accelerate cleanup and reuse of underutilized sites throughout the state by providing funding for a variety of inventory, investigation, and cleanup activities.

- **This document provides guidance to applicants on the completion of the ECRG application, and outlines DTSC's process for selecting ECRG grants.**

Please note that in all cases, the applicant must own or have access to the site(s) needed to perform the proposed activities. The environmental work proposed for ECRG funding must be completed within a two-year timeframe, although the overall site buildout may have a longer timeframe.



The **Equitable Communities Revitalization Grant (ECRG)**

is an unprecedented opportunity to address persistent environmental injustices and set a new path for land use that will have immediate and lasting benefits.

It's time to act!



WHAT SEPARATES THE ECRG FROM OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS?

To support the state's urgent community revitalization needs, DTSC has designed the ECRG program for ease of use to encourage broad participation.

The ECRG program:

- Has streamlined the application process
- Makes grants for eligible expenses up to \$7 million
- Does not require site ownership to participate
- Focuses in high environmental justice areas
- Supports applicants with free technical assistance and other expert guidance

YOU SHOULD APPLY IF YOU ARE ...

- A unit of local government (county, municipality, city, or town)
- A school district
- A special district
- An intrastate district
- A council of government
- A Tribe, regardless of federal recognition, that is culturally, regionally, or traditionally affiliated with lands or resources of California, including those listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- A qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



YOUR PROJECT MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT FUNDING IF:

- It is slated for reuse and located in a census tract where the [CalEnviroScreen 3.0](#) score (CES) is 75%+ (high poverty areas with the highest pollution burdens).
- It is located in a census tract where the CES is below 75% and planned uses provide significant benefits to rural or Tribes or underserved populations. Examples include nonprofit community services, health clinics or medical services, cultural institutions and uses supporting unhoused or underhoused populations.
- You own or have access to the site(s) needed to perform the proposed activities.



THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF PROPERTIES ARE **INELIGIBLE** FOR ECRG FUNDING

The following types of sites are ineligible for ECRG funding:

- Sites with ongoing or planned U.S. EPA or State-directed removal actions
- Sites proposed for or listed on the National Priority List (NPL)
- Federally owned or controlled properties
- Sites under enforcement action by a California state environmental regulatory agency or a Certified Unified Program Agency
- Sites actively subject to corrective action pursuant to the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and/or California Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.5

► Combining public and private resources to address persistent environmental injustices and set a new path for land use that will have immediate and lasting benefits





2.0 How The ECRG Program Works

Grant applications will be accepted in stages.

Please note: Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the first stage.



Stage 1: The “Pre-Qualifying” stage. The Pre-Qualifying Application is open to any eligible organization. The applicant completes a short version of the grant application, focusing on applicant and site eligibility. This step will allow DTSC staff to assess a number of data points and identify broad trends, including the types of proposed reuses and the geographic ranges of participation. DTSC staff also will use data and user feedback from this Pre-Qualifying stage to make improvements, as needed, before the public release of the Full Application in Stage 2.

DTSC staff will review Pre-Qualifying Applications to determine:

- Applicant’s eligibility
- Whether the subject site meets the definition of a brownfield
- Whether the subject site is within a disadvantaged census tract or whether the proposed reuse of the subject site benefits rural or Tribes or underserved populations.

Those that pass will be invited to advance to the Full Application, which will be evaluated based on scoring criteria described under Stage 2.

Timing: November 2021 through December 2021



HOW THE ECRG PROGRAM WORKS



Stage 2: The Full Application stage. As with the Pre-Qualifying Application, this stage is open to any eligible organization.

DTSC staff will review the applications to evaluate eligibility, described in Stage 1, and score eligible applications based on:

- Level of community participation and support
- Community benefit
- Consistency with community plans and need for brownfield renewal
- Status of project entitlement
- Status of environmental clearance
- Capacity of project partners to complete proposed project
- Competitive and equitable contracting practices
- Clarity of project description, budget, work plan and schedule
- Commitment to submit additional project documentation as requested
- Leveraging of other state and federal funding sources and technical assistance



DTSC is committed to working with applicants throughout the process to provide the resources and guidance you need to successfully compete for this transformative funding

The scoring criteria is subject to change and may be adjusted based on data and user feedback received during the Pre-Qualifying Stage.

DTSC will recommend the highest-ranking applications for funding through the ECRG program. Following the award, DTSC and the applicant will enter into a grant agreement stating terms and conditions.

Timing: January 2022 through April 2022, followed by subsequent grant cycles. Schedule is subject to change.



3.0 Determining Eligibility

To be eligible for a site-specific investigation or site-specific cleanup grant, DTSC modeled criteria from the federal Superfund law or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund law). All applicants must demonstrate that they are exempt from CERCLA liability. The Responsibility section of the application provides multiple situations, each with a series of questions; the applicant's responses to these will provide DTSC with the necessary information to support the assertion that the applicant is not responsible for the contamination under CERCLA.

DTSC recognizes that the information requested for this section may not be readily available, and in some cases may not be available at all. DTSC suggests that a good faith effort be made to provide all the requested information. If there are gaps in the applicant's knowledge, the applicant should provide the responses to the best of their knowledge and use the one-page "Additional Information" section toward the end of the application to provide further explanation.

The sections that follow walk through the various "responsibility" scenarios that are included in the application.

The Four Responsibility Scenarios

- A. Applicant is not the owner**
- B. Applicant is a Tribe and an owner**
- C. Applicant is a nonprofit organization and an owner**
- D. Applicant is a public entity and an owner**

Applicant Partners: Indicate whether any of the project partners caused or contributed to the contamination at the site, and if they did, explain the circumstances by which the contamination was caused.



SCENARIO A: APPLICANT IS NOT THE OWNER

Applicants who are not owners must:

- 1.** Affirm that they did not arrange for the disposal of hazardous substances at the site, transport hazardous substances to the site, and that they did not cause or contribute to any releases of hazardous substances at the site
- 2.** Describe the relationship with the owner and the owner's role in the work to be performed, if any
- 3.** Describe the agreement in place to access the site — for example, an access agreement, development agreement, or an escrow agreement
- 4.** Indicate whether the owner caused or contributed to the contamination at the site, and if they did, explain the circumstances by which the contamination was caused





SCENARIO B: APPLICANT IS A TRIBE AND OWNER

Tribes are exempt from demonstrating a Superfund law or CERCLA responsibility defense to be eligible for the ECRG. However, they must:

1. Provide information on whether disposal of hazardous substances at the site occurred before the Tribe acquired the site and whether the Tribe caused or contributed to any release of hazardous substances at the site
2. Affirm that the Tribe has not, at any time, arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at the site or transported hazardous substances to the site
3. Describe steps the Tribe took with respect to hazardous substances found at the site to stop any continuing releases, prevent any threatened future release and prevent or limit exposure to any previously released hazardous substance





SCENARIO C: APPLICANT IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND OWNER

To be eligible for the ECRG, nonprofits must establish that they are a Bona Fide Purchaser (BFP), can demonstrate that they performed the environmental due diligence that was customary at the time (prior to acquisition), and did not cause or contribute to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance. If the nonprofit applicant did not conduct due diligence prior to acquisition, they are not eligible for the ECRG. In this case, or if there are extenuating circumstances associated with the acquisition, we recommend that the nonprofit contact DTSC for further discussion.

For the applicant to support the demonstration that they meet the qualifications of a BFP, the application asks a series of questions. DTSC recognizes that, particularly for older acquisitions, some of the precise information may not be available. The applicant should make a good-faith effort to respond as completely as possible, and if needed, provide additional clarifying information in the notes section at the end of the application.





SCENARIO C: APPLICANT IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND OWNER

To establish that they are a BFP, the nonprofit must:

1. Provide information on the circumstances of the acquisition, including: how the nonprofit acquired ownership, the date of acquisition, the seller's name, and any familial, contractual, corporate, or financial relationships or affiliations
2. Provide information on the due diligence document (All Appropriate Inquiries¹ if acquisition took place after January 11, 2002), including the organization and environmental professional that developed the due diligence document. If the due diligence was conducted more than 180 days prior to the date the nonprofit acquired the site, the applicant must affirm that the nonprofit conducted the appropriate updates within 180 days prior to site acquisition
3. Provide information about whether disposal of hazardous substances at the site occurred before the nonprofit acquired the site and whether the nonprofit caused or contributed to any release of hazardous substances at the site
4. Affirm that the nonprofit has not, at any time, arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at the site or transported hazardous substances to the site
5. Describe all known uses of the site since the nonprofit acquired ownership, including a timeline with the names of all current and prior users during the time of the nonprofit's ownership, the details of each use, the reason for the use (e.g., lease, license, trespass, etc.) and the nonprofit's relationship to the current and prior users/owners
6. Describe steps the nonprofit took with respect to hazardous substances found at the site to stop any continuing releases, prevent any threatened future release and prevent or limit exposure to any previously released hazardous substance

¹ All Appropriate Inquiries or AAI need to follow 40 CFR Part 312 (the AAI Final Rule provides that ASTM International Standard E1527-13 ("Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process") and E2247-16 ("Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process for Forestland or Rural Property") be complied with. Information requested in the application includes the organization and environmental professional (as defined in and 40 CFR 312.10(b)) that developed the due diligence document, a confirmation that if the due diligence was conducted more than 180 days prior to the date the public entity acquired the site, an affirmation that the nonprofit conducted the appropriate updates within 180 days prior to acquisition of the site.

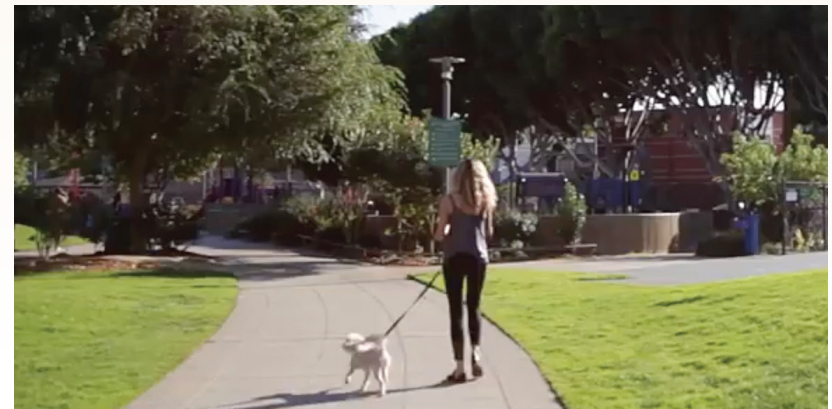


SCENARIO D: APPLICANT IS A PUBLIC ENTITY AND OWNER

If the applicant is a public entity and an owner, one of three scenarios will apply to establish responsibility for the purposes of the ECRG. The scenarios are as follows:

- 1. The public entity owned and acquired the site prior to January 11, 2002**
- 2. The public entity is an owner who acquired the site via involuntary acquisition, they did not cause or contribute to the release or threatened release of hazardous substance at the site, and are exempt from liability for any previous contamination at the site**
- 3. The public entity is an owner that acquired the site after January 11, 2002, can establish they are a Bona Fide Purchaser, can demonstrate that they performed the environmental due diligence that was customary at the time (prior to acquisition), and did not cause or contribute to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance**

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SCENARIO D: APPLICANT IS A PUBLIC ENTITY AND OWNER

SCENARIO #1

Public Entity Acquired Site Prior to January 11, 2002

If the public entity purchased the subject site before January 11, 2002, the application asks the public entity to:

1. Affirm that the public entity has not caused or contributed to any release of hazardous substances at the site
2. Affirm that the public entity has not, at any time, arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at the site or transported hazardous substances to the site
3. Describe steps the public entity took to stop any continuing releases, prevent release, and prevent or limit exposure to any previously released hazardous substances



SCENARIO D: APPLICANT IS A PUBLIC ENTITY AND OWNER

SCENARIO #2:

Public Entity Acquired Site Involuntarily

If the applicant is a public entity that acquired ownership or control of the site by seizure, bankruptcy, tax delinquency or abandonment, the application asks the public entity to:

1. Affirm that the public entity did not cause or contribute to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the site
2. Describe how the public entity acquired the site
3. Provide the date on which the site was acquired
4. Confirm whether all disposal of hazardous substances at the site occurred before the public entity acquired the site
5. Affirm that the public entity has not, at any time, arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at the site or transported hazardous substances to the site. For more information refer to [CERCLA § 101\(20\)\(D\)](#)



SCENARIO D: APPLICANT IS A PUBLIC ENTITY AND OWNER

SCENARIO #3:

Public Entity Owner of the Site that Conducted Environmental Due Diligence Prior to Acquisition and Acquisition Took Place After January 11, 2002

To be eligible for the ECRG funding, the public entity must establish that they are a Bona Fide Purchaser (BFP) and the public entity has complied with or is complying with all of the requirements below:

1. The public entity acquired title to the site after January 11, 2002
2. The public entity conducted All Appropriate Inquiries prior to acquiring the site
3. The public entity must not be liable in any way for contamination at the site or affiliated with any person potentially liable for the contamination
4. All disposal of hazardous substances at the site occurred before the public entity acquired the site
5. The public entity must exercise appropriate care by taking reasonable steps to address releases, including stopping continuing releases and preventing threatened future releases and exposures to hazardous substances on the site



SITES THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR ECRG FUNDING

Eligible applicants must own or have access to the site(s) needed to perform the proposed activities.

Eligible sites must meet the following criteria:

- 1.** Identified through one or more assessor's parcel number(s) (APN) or other acceptable identifier
- 2.** Meets the federal definition of a "brownfield site" – real property, the expansion or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Examples include factories, plating shops, crop farms, dairy farms, cattle ranches, dry cleaners, mining sites, properties with minimal historical information, abandoned buildings and vacant properties, or properties near those with known environmental contamination.
- 3.** Located in a census tract where the [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score](#) (CES) is 75%+ (high poverty areas with the highest pollution burdens) and are slated for reuse, **or**
- 4.** Proposed for use directly benefiting a Tribe, **or**
- 5.** Located in a census tract where the CES is below 75% and supports rural communities, tribes and planned uses that provide significant benefits to vulnerable communities, proposed for one of the following uses:
 - a.** Nonprofit community services
 - b.** Health clinic or medical services
 - c.** Cultural institutions
 - d.** Uses supporting unhoused or underhoused populations
 - e.** Social services
 - f.** Other uses with significant benefit(s) to a disadvantaged, low-income community or vulnerable population
 - g.** Housing planned for lower-income households at an "affordable housing cost," as defined by the [California Department of Housing and Community Development \(HDC\)](#) and also by State law as, "not more than 30 percent of gross household income with variations." "Housing cost" commonly includes rent or mortgage payments, utilities (gas, electricity, water, sewer, garbage, recycling, green waste), and property taxes and insurance on owner-occupied housing.

Free technical assistance is available to all applicants at any stage of the application process. Contact DTSC at ecrginfo@dtsc.ca.gov or our technical assistance provider, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, at ECRG@CCLR.org or (510) 269-7020.



4.0 General Expectations of ECRG Recipients

Work that is proposed for ECRG funding must be completed within a two-year timeframe that begins once the grant agreement has been fully executed. The broader assessment, investigation, or planned reuse may have a timeframe that goes beyond the two-year funding timeframe of the ECRG.

DTSC recognizes that predicting the environmental activities that could take place within a two-year timeframe can be challenging; we ask that the applicant make a good-faith effort to develop the scope and associated budget. An applicant may reapply for ECRG funding for the same site during a future application period if more investigation or cleanup is necessary after the end of a grant term.

An applicant may reapply for ECRG funding for the same site during a future application period if more investigation or cleanup is necessary after the end of a grant term.

Additionally, free technical assistance will be available to help applicants during the scoping and budgeting process, as well as at any other step of the application process.

ECRG reimburses grant recipients for allowable and approved costs. The grantee submits invoices for pre-approved activities and receives reimbursement upon DTSC review and approval according to the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.

Sites that are the subject of the ECRG application must be of interest to the applicant for facilitating expansion or reuse, promoting the general welfare of the community (i.e., job creation, increase tax base, greenspace, housing), or demonstrate public input, and that the end use is the “highest and best use” for the property. The application asks for the reuse plans to be specified and will consider plans that are in varying phases. The Pre-Qualifying Application will not be evaluated for “reuse-readiness.” However, since ECRG focuses on supporting buildup, well-defined reuse planning will be one of the considerations in the scoring process of the full application. DTSC cannot consider projects where redevelopment has been completed.



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THE ECRG WILL COVER

1. Costs associated with the implementation of an investigation or a cleanup work plan approved by a regulatory agency
2. Costs associated with conducting environmental due diligence and planning activities under a Community-wide Assessment Grant (see pages 5 and 23)
3. Costs associated with developing an inventory of brownfield sites, including GIS mapping Assessment Grant
4. Community engagement activities related to the ECRG work, including the implementation of the [CDC's Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health](#) process and other proven community participation methods, including maintenance of a web page for the site
5. Limited project management costs (up to 5% of the total ECRG final allocation)

** No more than 8% markup on pass-through charges from a primary contractor or environmental consultant, on subcontracts such as drillers, laboratory, utilities, surveyors and utility locators*

*** Site clearing, and removal of vegetation, debris or other barriers necessary to conduct sampling and/or cleanup may be allowable on a case-by-case basis*



GRANT-SPECIFIC COSTS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Community-Wide Assessment

Creating an inventory of brownfield sites, including GIS mapping, All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I Investigations,* Preliminary Endangerment Assessments (PEA), and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments,* activities related to public engagement regarding brownfield priorities and reuse of brownfields, and activities related to planning brownfield uses/reuses.

Site-Specific Investigation Costs

All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I Investigations*, Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA), or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments*, Supplemental Site Investigations (SSI) or equivalent environmental investigations*, Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)*, Pilot tests to evaluate cleanup alternatives*, Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) development, Removal Action Work Plans or equivalent environmental cleanup plans – Including public engagement and CEQA activities, implementation, and reporting, Regulatory oversight costs (the Water Board, a Certified Unified Program Agency, or DTSC) for the ECRG site.

► **ECRG funds are strictly for the use of implementing ECRG-approved activities for a community-wide assessment, site-specific investigation, or a site-specific cleanup.**

Site-specific Cleanup

Pilot tests to design cleanup*, Removal Action Workplans and equivalent environmental cleanups, including public engagement and CEQA activities, implementation, and reporting, Remedial design plans*, Regulatory oversight costs (the Water Board, a Certified Unified Program Agency, or DTSC) for the ECRG site, Operations and Maintenance Plans (O&M) – includes planning, construction and initial implementation and costs associated with the purchase of insurance required to carry out the environmental activities, such as pollution legal liability. Please note: does not include O&M operational costs; only implementation and planning.

** Includes planning, implementation and reporting*



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THE GRANT **WILL NOT** COVER

ECRG funds cannot be used for:

- Direct costs for proposal or grant preparation
- Costs incurred prior to the award and/or execution of the grant agreement
- Costs for long-term operation and maintenance of a remedy that was approved prior to the award and/or execution of the grant agreement
- Costs for long-term operation and maintenance of a remedy approved or constructed under ECRG
- Costs for compliance and monitoring of institutional controls such as a Land Use Covenant
- A penalty or fine
- Cost share requirement (for example, a cost share required by other funds)
- Hazardous building material surveys and removals, such as PCBs, lead and asbestos in buildings
- Building demolition (unless required to implement the cleanup)
- Costs to properly abandon oil wells and mine features
- Food and childcare during public or organizational meetings





5.0 Ready? Let's Get Started!

Don't delay.

Now is the time to identify properties in your community with known or suspected contamination and determine if the ECRG is the catalyst you need to return them to productive and beneficial uses.

1. Applications must be made online at https://dtsc.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new. Applicants will be required to create an account, with a username and password.
2. Have as much information and documentation as possible about the subject site before beginning the application.
3. *The following information and documents are required:*
 1. Contact information for the applicant, Site owner, development team and partner
 2. Site information, including past and present uses, land use, zoning, and any known environmental history, regulatory information and environmental investigation and cleanup-related documents
 3. Information relating to ownership and affirming that the applicant did not cause or contribute to the contamination at the site
 4. Reuse information, including proposed use(s), funding, relevant city and regional plans and documents
 5. Project implementation schedule and documentation
 6. Outreach and engagement efforts
 7. Work plans and budget estimates
 8. Information from online resources, such as [DTSC's ECRG WebApp](#)



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Both Stage 1 (Pre-Qualifying) and Stage 2 (Full) applications are submitted online using the Fluxx platform.

1. Eligibility

- Entity Eligibility: Indicate the type of applicant. Only units of government, qualified nonprofits and Tribes are eligible
- Site Eligibility: Confirm that the site is not covered by conditions that render it ineligible for ECRG funding

2. Application contacts

3. Application type

- Community-wide Assessment with awards ranging from \$80,000 to \$300,000
- Site-specific Environmental Investigation with awards ranging from \$80,000 to \$3 million
- Site-specific Environmental Cleanup with awards ranging from \$80,000 to \$7 million

- Site Information:** Address, site area or acreage, structure information, past and planned uses of the site (if known), [CalEnviroscreen3.0](#) Score

(CES). For community-wide assessment applications, provide the required information for at least four (4) sites. For site-specific applications, provide the required information for one site

- Indicate if CES 3.0 score for each site is greater than 75%
- If CES 3.0 score is less than 75%, indicate planned uses. If the proposed use is not listed or is unknown, the site is not eligible under ECRG

- Reason for application:** Indicate why the applicant has determined that the site may be contaminated

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The purpose of the ECRG program is to facilitate cleanup and beneficial reuse of impaired properties. Therefore, a proposed project must be intended to facilitate expansion or reuse. **DTSC cannot consider projects where cleanup and/or redevelopment is not needed.**



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

6. **Scope of ECRG requested activities:** Summary and cost of proposed activities within a two-year schedule
7. **Estimated budget:** Complete the provided budget worksheet listing estimates for the ECRG planned activities (upload required)
8. **Regulatory oversight agency:** Provide information on existing or in-progress regulatory oversight agreements
9. **Ownership, access and responsibility:** Provide information on Site ownership and/or Site access. Check the situation that applies to the owner/applicant and the environmental status of the Site as it pertains to CERCLA exemption of potential liability
10. **Documents:** Shows required documents that have been uploaded and allows uploading of additional documents the applicant is submitting in support of their application
11. **Additional information.** Opportunity for applicant to provide additional information to support their application
12. **Application contacts and signature:** Sign your application electronically via DocuSign



Pre-Qualifying Applications will be reviewed for eligibility. If eligible, the applicant will receive further instructions on submitting the remainder of the application. If ineligible, the applicant will be notified and may request an explanation for the decision.



APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Table 2 - QUALIFYING & SCORING CRITERIA (Draft subject to change)							
Criteria		Application		Criteria		Application	
Pre-Application: QUALIFYING CRITERIA		Community-wide	Investigation and Cleanup	SCORING CRITERIA		Community-wide	Investigation and Cleanup
	PART I: Applicant				COMMUNITY PLANNING (Total)		
					80		
1	Entity Eligibility	N/A	N/A	1	Community Engagement	10	10
2	Site Information			2	Community Support	20	20
3	CalEnviroScreen Score			3	Planned Site Uses	25	25
4	Reason for Application			4	Consistency with Plans	25	25
5	Scope of ECRG Activities Being Requested				PROJECT READINESS (Total)	40	80
6	Currently Regulatory Involvement			5	Entitlement and Approvals	-	15
7	Ownership and Access			6	Environmental Documents	-	20
8	Responsibility for Contamination ¹	Points TBD	Points TBD	7	Project Partners	15	15
	PART II: Application Contacts ²			8	Existing Contracts	-	5
1	Applicant Grant Project Manager	Points Boost for Tribes	Points Boost for Tribes	9	Competitive Contracting Policies	5	5
2	Applicant Main Contact	N/A	N/A	10	Equitable Contracting	20	20
3	Other Key Project Contacts				ECRG IMPLEMENTATION (Total)	75	75
				11	Description	20	20
				12	Additional Optional Reporting and Deliverables	15	15
				13	Amount Requested	15	15
				14	Fund Source Leveraging	15	15
				15	Schedule	10	10
					TOTAL	195	235
				16	Tie-breaker – CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Total		
				16	Tie-breaker – CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Poverty		
				16	Compare Scores of Priority Criteria		

The draft scoring criteria are under development and subject to change.

- Score assignment for Responsibility for Contamination under development
- Point boost for tribal applicants

The draft scoring criteria are under development and subject to change.

1. Score assignment for Responsibility for Contamination under development
2. Point boost for tribal applicants

Free technical assistance is available to all applicants at any stage of the application process. Contact DTSC at ecrginfo@dtsc.ca.gov or our technical assistance provider, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, at ECRG@CCLR.org or (510) 269-7020.



MEET THE DTSC TEAM



Natasha DiPietro

Project Manager and Licensed Professional Geologist

Natasha joined DTSC in late 2020 and is leading the implementation and configuration of the new application portal and grant management system, Fluxx, to support the ECRG and other programs. Prior to joining DTSC, she supported a variety of projects in the environmental and geotechnical fields and was a private-sector consultant. Contact her at Natasha.DiPietro@dtsc.ca.gov with questions about the application portal and grant management system.



Gregory Shaffer

Brownfield Coordinator for DTSC's Region 4 covering Southern and Southeastern California

Gregory leads voluntary agreement negotiation and guides parties seeking information on the agreement process. He has managed diverse projects at DTSC, including reuse oversight. Before joining DTSC in 2016, he worked with private-sector clients on a range of environmental matters. Contact him at Gregory.Shaffer@dtsc.ca.gov to learn about voluntary agreements or with general inquiries about the ECRG.



Anthony Rosas

Project Manager

Anthony joined DTSC in March 2021. He maintains the DTSC brownfields website, leads American Disabilities Act compliance for documents and deliverables and is curating a portfolio of ECRG-eligible properties. He's a 2019 graduate of UCLA, with a degree in environmental science. Please contact him at Anthony.Rosas@dtsc.ca.gov with any questions or comments about our brownfields website or for general inquiries about the ECRG.



Rana Georges

Senior Project Manager

Rana joined DTSC in 2005. She has overseen environmental assessments, investigations and cleanups of new and existing school sites, dry cleaners, recycling facilities, and residential reuse. She is our Small Business Coordinator, working to increase equity in our contracting practices, and also supports voluntary agreement negotiations. Contact her at Rana.Georges@dtsc.ca.gov to learn about our small business ethos, the voluntary agreement program, or for general questions about the ECRG.



MEET THE DTSC TEAM



Triss Chesney

*DTSC's U.S. EPA Brownfield
Funding Manager*

Triss oversees agency activities that are funded by U.S. EPA brownfield grants. Since joining DTSC in 1999, she has provided regulatory oversight for military facilities, school sites, voluntary sites, and brownfield grant sites. Prior to joining DTSC, she worked as an environmental consultant on projects ranging from site assessments to remediation. Email her at Triss.Chesney@dtsc.ca.gov if you are a U.S. EPA grantee who needs DTSC's support, or to learn more about overlaps in state and federal brownfield funding.



Kathy Takeshita

Program Analyst

Since joining DTSC in June 2021, Kathy has assisted with coordination of marketing and outreach, as well as producing operational reports and analysis. She helps track voluntary agreements to ensure commitments and timelines are met. She will serve as ECRG Application Coordinator and will initiate DTSC's review of applications. Please email her at Katherine.Takeshita@dtsc.ca.gov for any general ECRG questions or to schedule a meeting with anyone from our team.



Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi

*Statewide Brownfield
Development Manager*

Since joining DTSC in 2005, Maryam has provided regulatory support for the reuse of underutilized brownfield properties. She manages DTSC's Office of Brownfields and is expanding DTSC's brownfield practice to effectively manage the new ECRG. An expert on the investigation and cleanup of brownfields, DTSC's voluntary agreements, and the California Land Revitalization and Reuse Act, email her at Maryam.Tasnif-Abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov if you have ideas on brownfield or ECRG strategy, community or organizational partnership and collaboration opportunities.



Peter Garcia

*Southern California Division
Chief for DTSC's Site Mitigation
and Restoration Program*

Peter has served in several capacities within DTSC dating to 1989, with a 10-year pause for work in the private sector. His projects included contaminated site investigation and remediation, hazardous waste management, land use compatibility studies, and environmental impact reports, as well as other environmental land use planning projects for both public and private sector clients. To discuss a brownfield topic with Peter, please contact his assistant, Kelly Laliberte, at Kelly.Laliberte@dtsc.ca.gov.

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ECRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

Recognizing the need to support ECRG applicants, DTSC has selected the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) as DTSC's Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider (BTAP). CCLR is the only national nonprofit solely focused on the beneficial reuse of environmentally impacted and underutilized properties. With 23 years of experience in brownfield and infill reuse, CCLR also serves as U.S. EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfield communities provider for Region 9, including California.

In its BTAP role, CCLR will work with public agencies, nonprofits, Tribes and private organizations interested in learning about the ECRG program in the following ways:

- **Group webinars covering the Fluxx application, qualifying criteria, the application process, and scoring**
- **One-on-one calls/meetings to support applicants**
- **Support with reuse planning, and other technical assistance as necessary**
- **Referral to other grant, loan and technical assistance programs**
- **Spanish language support and community outreach assistance**
- **Resource guides and program updates**

Contact CCLR at ecrg@cclr.org or (510) 269-7020 for assistance.





MEET THE ECRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAM



Ignacio Dayrit

Lead Program Consultant

Ignacio has extensive expertise in all aspects of land revitalization. He oversees the DTSC BTAP and EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) service delivery. Prior to joining CCLR, he spent 20 years with the City of Emeryville's Brownfield Pilot Project, where he led revitalization of hundreds of acres of contaminated property.



Sebastian Harrison

Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

Sebastian is a member of the CCLR BTAP team dedicated to bringing applicants through the ECRG grant process. He is an Environmental Engineer with a passion for sustainability and moving brownfields into productive use. Prior to joining CCLR, he worked in the chemicals industry. He is experienced in cost estimating, construction planning, and project management. He also has experience coordinating with government entities, public and private stakeholders to help deliver project timelines and drive successful revitalization.



David Harnish

Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

David is a member of the CCLR BTAP team dedicated to bringing applicants through the ECRG grant process. David has led environmental and real estate projects with government agencies and executives for over 25 years, often in the context of transactions and developments. He has led teams selling real estate, addressing contamination, protecting biological resources, and environmental compliance.

CCLR is the only national nonprofit solely focused on the beneficial reuse of environmentally impacted and underutilized properties. We are here to support ECRG applicants at every step of the process.

How can our experts help you?

Free technical assistance is available to all applicants at any stage of the application process. Contact DTSC at ecrginfo@dtsc.ca.gov or our technical assistance provider, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, at ECRG@CCLR.org or (510) 269-7020.



MEET THE ECRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAM



Janet Naito

Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

Janet is a member of the CCLR BTAP team dedicated to bringing applicants through the ECRG grant process. She has over 30 years of experience working with local, State and Federal government agencies, communities and private stakeholders to restore properties for productive use. Prior to joining CCLR, she managed a branch within the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program.



Tony Torres

Community Coordinator

Tony is a Spanish language support resource and Community Coordinator for the CCLR BTAP team. Tony has over 27 years of experience working with Latino Communities throughout California to help create solutions to empower these communities. Tony brings a wealth of relationships and expertise working with local nonprofit organizations, Latino elected officials and influential stakeholders in the most environmentally affected areas in Southern California. Tony is a hands-on outreach practitioner ready to assist organizations with the ECRG grant application process.





ABOUT DTSC'S OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS

DTSC's Office of Brownfields is a unit within the Cypress Cleanup Branch, under the Site Mitigation and Restoration Program. As part of our mission, we promote the responsible and safe reuse of impaired and underutilized properties and will oversee implementation of the ECRG program. We create and maintain DTSC's brownfields resources, including the program's webpage and Quick Reference Guides, brief overviews of various aspects of the investigation and cleanup process. Our staff develops original content for internal and external training and guidance, and routinely interacts with practitioners in the brownfield space, including nonprofits, municipalities, public entities, housing agencies, Tribes, technical experts, and the development community.

The Office of Brownfields ensures that DTSC's framework for voluntary investigation and cleanup remains relevant and provides meaningful support for parties working to revitalize communities by eliminating environmental concerns.

We are mission-driven and excited to support the ECRG program and its applicants.

► ***Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the work we are doing to support California communities.***



ABOUT DTSC

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for protecting California's people, communities, and the environment from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals that have the potential to pollute land, water, and air. DTSC achieves its mission through a dedicated and experienced workforce of approximately 1,000 employees who deliver services through programs such as Hazardous Waste Management, Site Mitigation and Restoration, and Safer Consumer Products programs, structured to address the past, present, and future impacts of harmful chemicals on California communities and the environment.

DTSC's work is vital to achieving the vision of a California for All, where every person can prosper, live in a healthy environment, and enjoy California's beautiful and diverse landscape.





TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS



CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING

RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

Our Job: Your Success!

Communities throughout California are burdened by idled lands that may be contaminated and are expensive to investigate, clean up and reuse.

Recognizing the potential to reuse these properties for recreation (parklands, green spaces), commercial enterprises and housing, California has created the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) program, allocating more than \$200 million in grant funds for local governments, qualified 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations and Tribes for inventory, investigation, and cleanup activities to address historic environmental injustices and set a new path for land use that will have immediate and lasting benefits.

► **CCLR is your go-to resource for answers and hands-on assistance with your ECRG application, at no cost to you!**

As an ECRG applicant, you can expect:

- A dedicated CCLR project manager to work one-on-one to answer your questions and guide you through the application process.
- Webinars and other educational programming to explain the program and position you for success. Learn about hiring a contractor, developing requests for proposals/qualifications, cost estimating, engaging with your regulatory agency and other important information.
- Support at every step of the process, from Pre-Qualifying to grant award.

CCLR has 23 years of experience helping communities and their partners imagine a better future for idled lands, and in finding the resources to make those new visions a reality.

We're here to help you succeed because success means cleaner, healthier California communities!

We **EnCouRaGe** you to learn about the program and **[apply!](#)**

Free technical assistance is available to all applicants at any stage of the application process. Contact DTSC at ecrginfo@dtsc.ca.gov or our technical assistance provider, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, at ECRG@CCLR.org or (510) 269-7020.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Who is eligible for the ECRG?

Public entities, Tribes and nonprofit organizations. Note, state agencies may apply, however, there must be a partnership with a local eligible entity.

What are eligible activities?

Community-wide assessments and site inventory, site-specific environmental investigations, and environmental cleanups as well as other activities listed in more detail in the Guidelines on *page 23*.

How do I apply?

Online via the Fluxx system https://dtsc.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new

How much can I apply for?

Funding amounts are based on eligible activities. See list of eligible activities on *page 22*.

Can someone apply on my behalf?

A project partner can fill out the Pre-Qualifying Application information. Only a representative within an eligible entity can submit the Full Application and execute grant documents.

In order to apply, do my sites need to be contaminated?

Under the community-wide assessment (CWA) and site-specific environmental investigation, site or sites eligible include those that are suspected to be contaminated because of prior use, history, or results of investigation. Under the site-specific environmental cleanup, the applicant should be working with a regulatory agency toward cleaning up a site.

How many sites can I submit for ECRG funding?

There is no limit.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Is there a deadline to submit applications?

Yes. Pre-Qualifying Applications are being accepted through December 7, 2021. The Full Application launches in January 2022, with applications in this initial phase accepted through March 2022. Subsequent grant cycles will be announced at a later date.

When are the applications reviewed and who reviews them?

A dedicated DTSC team will be reviewing Pre-Qualifying Applications and Full Applications on a rolling basis.

How long do I have to complete eligible activities?

The grant period is two (2) years after execution of the grant agreement.

Can I receive more than one grant per site?

Yes. Applicants may apply for — and DTSC will consider — more than one grant per project.

Do I need a detailed budget for the Pre-Qualifying Application?

You will need to have an estimated cost of the activities for the Pre-Qualifying Application. If invited to submit a Full Application, a more detailed budget will be requested as well as projected milestones and when funding will be expended.

Can the grant period be extended if you run out of time?

Typically no. Those needing more time to complete activities should talk to DTSC well before the grant period expires.

Do I need to notify the community or have public meetings prior to applying?

No public meetings are required before submitting a Pre-Qualifying Application. Community outreach is among the scoring criteria that are evaluated for the Full Application process.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Will subcontractor markup be allowed when applying for reimbursement?

Yes, the ECRG allows for a maximum of 8% markup on pass-through charges in project budgets and reimbursement requests. These include such costs as drillers, laboratory, utilities, surveyors, utility locators, etc.

How are costs reimbursed?

DTSC anticipates an online reimbursement request portal similar to the application portal.

If my project is only partially complete, can I still apply for funding?

ECRG funds can be used for eligible expenses of any completed tasks after the grant agreements are executed.

My site-specific project is comprised of more than one APN — what should the APN identifier be?

In the Pre-Qualifying Application form, identify one parcel with an APN, and add additional parcels in the place provided in the form.

Are LLCs or LPs eligible to apply as owners?

A limited liability corporation in which all managing members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are eligible. Limited liability partnership in which all general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations also are eligible.

For questions about the ECRG process, or for assistance with the application, please contact:

Gregory Shaffer

Office of Brownfields
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Email: ECRGInfo@dtsc.ca.gov

For assistance filling out the application, please contact:

Center for Creative Land Recycling

Phone: (510) 269-7020
Email: ecrg@cclr.org



DEFINITIONS

Brownfield: [A brownfield is a site](#), the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Many of these properties are in the urban core, near transit and often in underserved communities with housing and economic development needs. Examples include factories, plating shops, crop farms, dairy farms, cattle ranches, dry cleaners, mining sites, properties with minimal historical information, abandoned buildings and vacant properties, or properties near those with known environmental contamination.

BFPP- Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser: An entity that acquires ownership of a facility after the release of the hazardous substances and after Jan. 11, 2002, who meets the following criteria: [the U.S. EPA's qualifying criteria](#).

B-TAP-[Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider](#)

CES: [CalEnviroScreen](#), A metric used for determining pollution burden and population characteristics.

CWA-Community-Wide Assessment: (CWA) to obtain information about environmental conditions at four or more sites within a study area. Recipients of CWA grants may use the funds for preliminary environmental and land use planning, including All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI), Phase I Environmental Site

Assessments, or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, as well as for land-use planning and public engagement activities meant to elicit dialogue about local brownfields priorities. *Grant range: \$80,000 to \$300,000*

DTSC: [Department of Toxic Substances Control](#)

ECRG: [Equitable Community Revitalization Grant](#)

Site-Specific Environmental Investigation: Investigation can be performed to determine the type and extent of contamination at a site. This grant is applicable when a specific site is identified and the applicant plans to spend grant funds on this one site only. Work may include All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA), Supplemental Site Investigations (SSI) or equivalent environmental investigations, Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), and Pilot tests to evaluate cleanup alternatives. *Grant range: \$80,000 to \$3 million*

Site-Specific Environmental Cleanup: If the contamination is understood at a site, the cleanup may be performed utilizing technologies such as in-situ treatment, excavation and off-site disposal, or other engineered remedies. This grant includes planning, implementation and reporting costs as well as those associated with the purchase of insurance required to carry out the environmental activities, such as workman's comp insurance and pollution legal liability. *Grant range: \$80,000 to \$7 million.*